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Letter dated 6 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 24, 27 and 28 February 1997.

On 24 February, at 0944 hours, two Turkish F-4 military planes and one G-4 aircraft in violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and the Nicosia flight information region flew over the areas of the monastery of Ayios Andreas and the Solin Point, and then exited at 1037 hours, in a south-easterly direction.

On 27 February, from 1320 hours to 1353 hours, six Turkish military planes violated the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Kyrenia, Morfou, Nicosia and Famagusta, and then landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou. In addition, on 27 February, at 1722 hours, a G-4 aircraft flew over the areas of the Solin Point and the monastery of Ayios Andreas and exited from the airspace of the Republic, heading in the direction of Turkey.

On 28 February, at 1852 hours, a Turkish aircraft of type P-42 entered the airspace of the Republic and landed at Tymbou.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations